

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



EPA Administrator speaking at press conference in Farmington, New Mexico

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #7
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations, NM
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)

Date: 8/14/2015

Reporting Period: 8/13/2015 0700 – 8/13/2015 1900

1. Introduction

1.1 Description of Threat

Region 8 reported approximately three million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

Water monitoring and sampling is ongoing at public water supply intakes and private wells and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

2. Current Activities

Headquarters has established a joint website at www.epa.gov/goldkingmine.

Created a new general public call-in number for Regions 6, 8, and 9: 844 – 607 – 9700.

2.1 Operations Section

Validated surface water data from August 8 and 9, 2015, pre and post slug surface water samples has been posted to the Gold King Mine website. The results can be viewed at <http://www2.epa.gov/goldkingmine/gold-king-mine-data-august-13-2015>.

On August 13, 2015, NMED announced that they are considering removing advisories restricting water use in stages. Before NMED lifts the advisories, they would like see at least one more days' worth of validated data. NMED's initial target for lifting advisories is drinking water wells, followed by intakes, then recreational activities, and finally irrigation ditches.

On August 13, 2015, the toll-free call-in number received forty-two inquiries, of those twenty-three dealt directly with Region 6. Regions 6, 8 and 9 will coordinate responses to these calls.

The R6 Incident Command in Farmington received the community outreach package and will distribute copies at the San Juan County Fair, residences where private wells are sampled, and at community meetings.

An ATSDR representative and New Mexico Department of Health Poison Control Center representative were present at the August 13, 2015, evening community meeting to answer questions related to health concerns.

Private Drinking Water Well Sampling

EPA collected forty-two samples from private drinking water well locations on August 13, 2015.

The R6 EPA Incident Command and NMED Drinking Water Bureau focused efforts on getting water to the Town of Morningstar because their water supply is at critical levels. The Town reported only three to five days of supply remaining.

EPA received comments from NMED regarding the draft Sampling Plan and EPA will evaluate NMED's comments for inclusion in the final version.

On August 13, 2015, EPA received validated data for private drinking water well samples that were taken on August 10, 2015, and preliminary data for private drinking water well samples that were taken on August 11, 2015.

EPA is modeling the groundwater hydrology of the private wells.

Irrigation Ditch Sediment Sampling

EPA collected twenty-nine irrigation ditch sediment samples today. Three of the twenty-nine samples were from critical locations and were couriered to the lab in Albuquerque. The courier was escorted by law enforcement to the laboratory to expedite sample receipt. EPA will receive preliminary data for these three priority samples on August 14, 2015. EPA will receive preliminary data on the remaining twenty-six samples on August 15, 2015.

Surface Water and Sediment Sampling

EPA collected nine surface water and sediment samples on August 13, 2015.

EPA received validated data on August 13, 2015, for sediment samples that were taken on August 10, 2015, validated data for surface water samples that were taken on August 9 and 10, 2015, and preliminary data for surface water and sediment samples taken on August 11, 2015.

Agriculture and Livestock Water

On August 13, 2015, EPA made deliveries to 6 agriculture and 3 livestock locations, totaling 298,683 gallons. Since August 11, 2015, EPA has made deliveries to 13 agriculture and 8 livestock locations, totaling 532,623 gallons. The limiting factor is the number of available trucks. We estimate 13 available trucks by the end of the week. San Juan County is coordinating loading points and logistics for staging and scheduling the trucks.

Drinking Water Systems Update

Based on conversation with the State of New Mexico and drinking water systems on August 13, 2015, the following is the list of affected water systems and their status:

System Name	Population	# Days Water Available
Aztec Domestic Water System	6800	10 days
Farmington Water System	47000	60 days
Lower Valley WUA	8428	6 days
Morningstar Water Supply System	6423	10 days
Northstar WDWCA	4123	30 days
Southside Mutual Domestic	1593	3 - 5 days/get water from Aztec
Upper La Plata WUA	2265	Get water from Aztec and Farmington
Flora Vista	4300	1 day/get water from Aztec
Total Population	80,392	

2.2 Finance Section

Daily Cost Estimates Report

Funding Source	EPA Expended Payroll	EPA Expended Travel	Contract Costs	TOTAL Expended	Estimated Daily Burn Rate
EPA	\$127,170	\$28,750	\$570,000	\$725,920	\$191,180

3. Participating Entities in Region 6

US EPA
USFWS
NMED
ATSDR
NM Department of Health
NM Office of the State Engineer
NM Department of Game and Fish
County of San Juan – New Mexico

4. Personnel

Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	20
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	4
Region 6 Staff in JIC – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 Staff in Area Command – Durango, CO	1
Region 6 RIC – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 Logistics – Farmington, NM	1
Region 6 Water Liaison – Santa Fe, NM	1
Region 6 EPA OSC	5
Region 6/7 Water Technicians	12
Region 6 Contractors in Field	33